

the child is not prepared to learn by the time they reach school age.

These executives came to the conclusion that in order to find solutions to the problems they were facing and other problems facing society, we had to begin at the beginning and make sure children start out their lives with the nutrition they need to develop.

That conclusion is what brought these CEOs to the Committee on the Budget, and it is what brings me to the floor today. We continue to learn more each day about the importance of the first 3 years of life in the development of the brain. Common sense tells us that ensuring that children have proper nutrition at this critical period in their lives will reap benefits for all of us as these children grow into adulthood.

A child who has the proper nutrition at the beginning of his or her life in the womb through the first 3 years of its life is more likely to succeed in school, less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system, and more likely to become a productive member of society.

There have been numerous studies showing the effectiveness of the WIC program in improving health of newborn children. From a fiscal standpoint, studies have found that Medicaid costs for women and children participating in WIC were reduced by between \$1.77 and \$3.13 for every dollar spent on WIC.

But more important than any of these statistics or studies about the effectiveness of the WIC program is this: The WIC program helps give all children a fair start in life. That is why I am proud to support the WIC program, and encourage our colleagues to continue to support and expand upon this very valuable program.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1½ minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with representatives of the Ethiopian and Eritrean embassies. The two countries are involved in a horrific border war that since May, 1998, has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties.

As family doctor who worked in a refugee camp near Kassala, Sudan, in 1985, and treated refugees from both Tigre and Eritrea, it is heartbreaking to see this war continue. Just a few years ago, the Horn of Africa was one of the most promising development storied on the continent. There was great hope for both Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1991, two countries with a great deal in common. Now, tragically, that promise is gone, swept away in war.

Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to ask the United States to take sides militarily in this war. It is not in our interests, or

in those of the warring parties, that we do. What I do ask is for the two warring nations, Ethiopia and Eritrea, to agree to a cease-fire and peace settlement. The OAU proposal seems to be acceptable to both countries, but for unclear reasons has not been signed.

A cease-fire and peace treaty must be agreed to. The war must end. New enemies must again become old friends.

PROBLEMS AMERICA IS CONFRONTING IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I join with the other Members who have been on the floor today to talk about the problems we are confronting in steel.

I recently had a chance to visit Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point division. I had a chance to meet with many of the 4,000 dedicated workers at this facility. I also had a chance to talk with management, to go over the investment that management is making in the most modern steel equipment, hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, at Sparrows Point our workers can compete with any worker around the world. All they ask from us is a level playing field. They are not asking us to protect the steel industry from competition, but they are asking us to protect the steel industry from illegally dumped steel that is still coming into this country.

Yes, what we need to do, we need to enact the legislation, that passed, that rolls back the level of steel imports to the pre-crisis level. We need to reform our antidumping and countervailing duty laws to protect from the surge of illegal steel or any product coming into this country, so we can act decisively. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) and I have filed such legislation. We also need the ITC to take decisive action in their meetings today.

This is sort of like a Whack-a-Mole game, where you hit one country on the head that is dealing with illegal steel and another country pops up. But for the 10,000 steel workers' jobs that we have lost, this is not a game. It is time for us to take decisive action.

THE CRISIS IN STEEL IS NOT OVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the crisis in steel is not over. The International Trade Commission of the U.S. Department of Commerce has ruled that foreign steel imports are coming

into this country at below-cost production in many cases, below cost of U.S. products, and are being, in the technical terms, dumped in the U.S. marketplace.

The Department of Commerce is now proceeding in the second phase of this unfair trade practice determining injury. The Clinton administration, through the Secretary of Commerce, Secretary Daley, and Secretary Rubin at Treasury, have moved smartly to impose countervailing duties and put companies on notice in this country to post bond or cash to cover the cost between the unfair price and the U.S. market price.

We are now in the injury phase of this proceeding, an excruciating fair, time-consuming process, the most fair process of any country in the world trade community for determining unfair trade. In fact, it is so fair that I am afraid that American steel mills and in Minnesota taconite plants will be out of business before they come to the conclusion, the Department of Commerce, that there is injury, that these countervailing duties should be imposed, and the level trading field re-established in steel.

We ought to act decisively now. The Senate ought to pass the bipartisan Steel Recovery Act, because imports from Japan in March were up 36 percent, Brazil up 54 percent, Korea up 11 percent, and Indonesia tripled its exports in March to the United States. Korea has increased their exports to the U.S. so much that they are up 77 percent over a year ago.

The crisis in steel is not over. More countries are finding that the most open, fair market in the world is the United States, and are dumping their unemployment on our marketplace. It is not fair.

AMERICAN STEEL COMPANIES AND STEEL FAMILIES REMAIN IN GRAVE DANGER FROM STEEL DUMPING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues today are point out, the latest trade figures are in and they confirm what we feared but also what we expected. They confirm, Mr. Speaker, that the steel dumping crisis is not over. In fact, just the opposite, they confirm that our American steel companies and our American steel families remain in grave danger.

It turns out that the recent drop in imports was not the start of a trend, it was only our trading partners catching their breath and then pumping up their March shipments by 25 percent. That includes a 39 percent increase from Japan and a 54 percent increase from Brazil, two of the main targets of complaints filed by our U.S. steelmakers.